

SPRING 2022

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Summer and Fall 2022 Enrollment Requirements

In March 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released guidance for continuing and new international students within the U.S. that included more flexibility in enrollment requirements for the duration of the pandemic. This guidance is in effect through the summer 2022 semester, but it is possible that DHS will revert to pre-pandemic enrollment requirements in Fall 2022. ISSS will keep international students and the campus community updated should there be a change in guidance before the fall semester.

Pre-pandemic, international students could only enroll in one online course towards their full-time enrollment, and the remainder of their courses needed to be in face-to-face or hybrid format. Currently, continuing international students can enroll in as many online courses as necessary toward their full course of study, and new international students must enroll in at least one face-to-face or hybrid course toward their full course of study during their first semester.

Exchange students may have different requirements, so please contact International Affairs before advising an exchange student. Please see the ISSS website for more information about [enrollment requirements](#).

International Student Advisement Information Session

Academic Advisors and Graduate Program Directors are invited to join this information session. Learn about SIUE's growing international student population, review pre-COVID enrollment requirements unique to international students, and gain a deeper understanding of immigration processes requiring academic advisor involvement, including off-campus work authorization.

March 25, 11:30am - 12:30pm

Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

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SIUE Office of International Affairs

ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A virtual information session for
academic advisors and graduate
program directors

March 25, 2022

11:30am-12:30pm

Social Security Procedures Update

International students must obtain a social security number if employed in the United States. Currently, Social Security Administration (SSA) offices remain closed, and SSA representatives are meeting with students by appointment only in their Alton office. ISSS is working with the Alton SSA Office to schedule these appointments after students submit SSN application materials to ISSS. Due to significant delays caused by this process, SIUE is temporarily permitting international students to start working after ISSS has arranged their appointments. Students are instructed to provide the SSN receipt they receive at their SSN appointment, and their SSN numbers, to their hiring unit as soon as they receive them. More information about international students and SSNs can be found on [the ISSS website](#).

International Students & Taxes

Due to the complexities of U.S. tax law and legal restrictions, university staff are neither qualified nor permitted to advise on taxes. However, The Office of International Affairs arranges access to Sprintax Tax Preparation with codes provided by SIUE. Please refer students who have tax-related questions to ISSS so they can be advised to purchase a \$3 Sprintax code. Additional information about international students and taxes can be found on [the ISSS website](#).



Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

Before international students participate in an off-campus internship, they must be approved for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) through International Affairs. CPT is defined as employment that is an integral part of an established curriculum in the student's course of study. Types of CPT work authorization can be internship, cooperative education, or any other employment that is related to the student's degree program. CPT can be paid or unpaid, must be part-time (no more than 20 hours/week) during the fall and spring, and may be part-time or full-time in the summer. If the internship is in the student's final semester, the student must also be registered for other courses. To begin the application process, students must request a letter from their academic advisor outlining the classes they will be taking for future semesters and their anticipated date of graduation. A sample can be found [here](#).

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Virtual International Student Graduation Celebration

Save the date for the International Virtual Graduation Celebration, which will be held via Zoom on April 29 from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Staff and faculty are invited to join and celebrate the accomplishments of our international students.

Click [here](#) to join the celebration.



In-person International Student Events Resumed

African Banquet

On February 27, the African Student Association hosted a successful in-person African Banquet for the first time in two years! The event showcased the beautiful African culture with African food, music, and performances.

India Night

The Indian Student Association will host India Night on Saturday, April 9, from 5 - 10pm in the SIUE Recreational Center. This is a family friendly event for the SIUE community that will showcase Indian food, music, and dance.

Trip to St. Louis Arch

International Affairs organized a trip for international students to the Gateway and St. Louis Zoo on March 19, to kick off its resumption of in-person activities and provide an opportunity for new and continuing students to explore St. Louis.

Ask Me Anything Sessions

On the last Friday of every month from 2:00 - 4:30pm, ISSS will host information sessions for students at the M.U.C. Plaza. Contact jampoma@siue.edu if you like to attend this event and speak to the students about services your office provides.

STUDY ABROAD

Spring 2022 Update

Many study abroad programs are open once again to receive students, and it has been encouraging that once again students can travel internationally in pursuit of educational and personal goals. For the second consecutive semester, SIUE students headed out into the world to study and explore. Their destinations included Spain and France. Students are also scheduled to participate in a variety of Summer study abroad programs in Canada, Ireland, France, Spain, El Salvador, South Korea, and Greece. While the pandemic continues to be a consideration, we are looking forward to the full return of our study abroad programs in the near future.

If you know a student who might be interested in studying abroad, please refer them to Ryan Donald, Study Abroad Specialist. Students can make an appointment by email at rydonal@siue.edu or on Starfish.

If you are a faculty member interested in learning more about how to create a faculty-led study abroad program, please see the [Study Abroad Website](#) or send an email to studyabroad@siue.edu.



VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Yousra Elbaz

Egypt

What are you working on at SIUE, and what were you doing before beginning your program?

I am the current Arabic FLTA (Foreign Language Teaching Assistant) for the Fulbright foreign language teaching program. I teach Arabic in SIUE from a cultural perspective. I also organize events for the Arabic club. Last semester we meet weekly for a movie night. This semester we meet every other week for some fun Arabic-related activities. I also try to educate my students as much as I can about Egyptian culture in particular and Middle Eastern culture in general. We have conversations and presentations about this. I even tried to make some of the traditional dishes for them.

I am a graduate of the faculty of Arts English department, with a diploma in teaching and another one in Legal and United Nation translation. Before coming to SIUE I decided to pursue my MA in linguistics and translation I covered two years and then I stopped at my thesis because I came here. In SIUE I study TESOL-related subjects and culture. I study teaching methodology and pedagogy with the application.

Why were you interested in coming to SIUE, and what are your goals for the future?

I mainly came here for the cultural experience. I think of people as novels that I love to read and learn their stories. I knew that coming to the US will not only allow me to deal with the American culture. But also cultures from all over the world. I knew that will help me learn more about cultures, people, and myself. Traveling alone for a whole year and working in another country with the new system is indeed a very in reaching experience. Might not be easy, but it teaches a lot.

Finishing my MA and PhD is the highlight of my plan now. I also plan on continuing teaching Arabic and English respectively so I can get the chance to meet more cultures and people.

What is something that surprised you about SIUE, Edwardsville, or the U.S.?

SIUE is a very beautiful university with a vast scale of opportunities for students. I take real pride in being part of that campus and this institution. Edwardsville is quite a small town what really surprises me is that a college town sleeps that early and not enough coffee shops to study in. I enjoyed meeting and dealing with all these different ethnicities that I could have only met in the US. I am truly grateful for that.

Host a Visiting International Scholar

Visiting international scholars are usually researchers or professors in their home countries who come to collaborate on research or teaching programs with SIUE departments. They may be hired as employees of SIUE or they may be visitors representing their universities abroad in a professional capacity for meetings at SIUE. Most international scholars are invited to SIUE as Exchange Visitors (J-1 Visa), Temporary Workers in a Specialty Position (H-1B Visa) or Tourists (B-1 Visa for Business Purposes). International Affairs helps facilitate visits for scholars on J-1 Visas.

The Exchange Visitor Program is made possible by the U.S. Department of State. SIUE typically hosts approximately ten visiting international scholars at any given time, in several different departments. Visit [our website](#) to learn more about hosting considerations and responsibilities, different types of J-1 scholar categories, and the J-1 scholar application process. If you or someone in your department is interested in hosting, please contact Amy Nusser at anusser@siue.edu about next steps.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

CHEPD and ITU Program Graduates



Cohort of Robotics and Mechatronics students from the Changshu Institute of Technology

CHEPD (Cooperation in Higher Education and Professional Development) is a Sino-American program established through partnership of AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) and CCIEE (China Center for International Economic Exchanges). SIUE has welcomed undergraduate students through this program since 2019, most of whom study Mechatronics and Robotics in the School of Engineering. Students study 1.5 years at their Chinese university, study 2 years at SIUE, and return to China at the end of their program. This spring, the first cohort of students will graduate. All seven of the graduating students will return to SIUE for the Master's degrees.



Istanbul Technical University in Istanbul, Turkey

In 2007, the SIUE School of Engineering collaborated with Istanbul Technical University (ITU) to establish a Dual Diploma bachelor's degree program in Industrial Engineering. The partnership offered international students from Turkey the opportunity to study as a freshman and junior at Istanbul Technical University and then come to the U.S. to study at SIUE as a sophomore and senior to receive dual degrees at both universities. Several hundred students completed the program and obtained positions in Industrial Engineering after graduation to gain a competitive advantage in the job market. A class of 31 students will graduate this spring 2022 and the final cohort of 7 students will complete in spring 2023.

684

**International Students
in Spring 2022**

54

**Countries
Represented**

194

**Students on Optional
Practical Training (OPT)**



If you have a question for International Affairs or would like us to cover a certain topic in the next newsletter, please let us know at iss@siue.edu.